

REMARKS

The applicant again appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and requests reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

The claims have been amended to advance prosecution. No new matter has been added. See the specification, page 10, line 27-page 11, line 25 and original claims 1, 6, and 7.

The claims now recite that the crimp members are straight, flat, and have a width defining a gap when the crimping tool is closed. This novel configuration limits further deformation of the crimp tube and also prevents cutting of a suture within the crimp tube.

The art of record fails to teach or suggest such a crimping tool.

Songer's crimper jaws are curved, not straight. *Levi*'s crimping jaws include curved recesses. *Burke* also discloses curved recessed crimping jaws at 58 in Fig. 1. *Wendor* is similar.

Dependent claims 49-51 are allowable, *inter alia*, since they depend upon allowable independent claim 48.

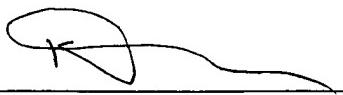
CONCLUSION

Each of the Examiner's previous rejections have been addressed or traversed. It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the

undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts at (781) 890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,



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KT/cae